

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 GSA-01 STR-04 OPIC-03

AID-05 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /034 R

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NEA/INS:RBMORLEY

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R 290219Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USINJC, EMIN, ETRD, IN

SUBJECT: MICA

REF: (A) STATE 305281; (B) NEW DELHI 290

1. LAST DECEMBER, DEPARTMENT INFORMED EMBASSY (IN REF A) OF REMAINING UNRESOLVED MICA ISSUES, AND NOTED THAT US MICA INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (MIA) HAD REQUESTED GOI REPLY ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES BY FEBRUARY 1. IN REF B, EMBASSY INFORMED US THAT JAIN ILLNESS LIKELY TO DELAY GOI RESPONSE TO MIA.

2. IN ABSENCE OF MIA PRESIDENT JIM MARSHALL (WHO CURRENTLY IN BRAZIL ON BUSINESS), DEPTOFF DISCUSSED MICA ISSUES JANUARY 27 WITH MIA VICE PRESIDENT HAROLD TESTAN, WHO CONFIRMED THAT MIA HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY REPLY FROM GOI. IN VIEW ABSENCE GOI REPLY, AND TAKING JAIN'S ILLNESS INTO ACCOUNT, DEPTOFF SUGGESTED TO TESTAN THAT MIA DEFER FEBRUARY 1 MEETING FOR ANOTHER WEEK OR TWO. TESTAN
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APPEARED AMENABLE TO THIS SUGGESTION, BUT ALSO STATED THAT

MIA MEMBERS WISHED TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THEY COULD RESUME ORDERING INDIAN MICA (PARTICULARLY SCRAP, SPLIT FLOOR PRICES OF WHICH IS ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES). HE FELT THAT

CONTINUED MIA PRESSURE ON GOI OFFERED BEST HOPE OF RESOLVING ISSUES, AND FOR THIS REASON WAS OPPOSED TO ANY LENGTHY DELAY FOR GOI RESPONSE. TESTAN ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE RECENTLY INFORMED BY CALCUTTA MICA SUPPLIER THAT JAIN NOW RECOVERED AND BACK AT WORK.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO DISCUSS OUTSTANDING MICA ISSUES WITH JAIN AND/OR OTHER APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS AND TO URGE THEM TO TAKE FORTHCOMING STAND IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THESE ISSUES. DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ESTIMATE OF WHEN MIA MIGHT EXPECT GOI RESPONSE. KISSINGER

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